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Agenda item 119

Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 5th, 6th and 15th meetings, on 2, 3 and 24 October 2002. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/57/SR.5, 6 and 15).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001;[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports" (A/57/58);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the comments of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports" (A/57/58/Add.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2002 (A/57/61);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/57/34).

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(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the preliminary listing of potential reports for the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2003 and beyond (A/57/321);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/57/327);

(g) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on reforming the Field Service category of personnel in United Nations peace operations (A/57/78), support costs related to extrabudgetary activities in organizations of the United Nations system (A/57/442) and strengthening the investigations function in United Nations system organizations (A/56/282), and its report entitled "Enhancing the governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight report" (A/47/58) (A/57/434).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.7

4. At the 15th meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Indonesia, coordinator of the informal consultations on agenda item 119, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/57/L.7).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/57/L.7 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

A

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000 and 56/245 of 24 December 2001,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2001;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Unit for 2002;[3]

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/57/34).
[3] A/57/61.

3. *Also takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the preliminary listing of potential reports for the programme of work of the Unit for 2003 and beyond;[4]

4. *Takes note* in particular that, as noted in the preliminary listing of potential reports for the programme of work of the Unit for 2003 and beyond and reaffirmed by the Chairman of the Unit, the preliminary listing is of a tentative nature and does not necessarily imply that the Unit is committed to taking up those subjects;

5. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;[5]

6. *Reiterates* its request to the executive heads of participating organizations to observe fully the time frame for submitting their comments, as called for in article 11, paragraphs 4 (d) and (e), of the statute of the Unit;

7. *Reiterates* the need for the Unit to place emphasis in its work on well-defined and timely items of high priority, identifying concrete managerial administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to pay special attention to the preparation of reports that are more evaluation-oriented;

9. *Invites* additional efforts by the Unit, the bureaux of the legislative organs and the secretariats concerned to ensure that the relevant reports of the Unit are submitted to the legislative organs of participating organizations and that those organs take specific action on the recommendations contained in the reports;

10. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Unit to implement the follow-up mechanisms described in paragraphs 24 and 25 of its report for 2001[2] so as to ensure the systematic tracking of the status of implementation of the Unit's recommendations;

11. *Takes note* of the information contained in paragraphs 27 to 32 of the report of the Unit regarding the proposed new procedure for handling comments of the participating organizations on the findings and recommendations of the Unit, and invites the Unit to provide detailed information on the new procedure in comparison with the current procedure, together with the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

12. *Reiterates* its request to the executive heads of the participating organizations that have not yet done so to take the steps necessary to facilitate the consideration of and action on the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit, and invites the legislative organs concerned to consider the system and take action in that regard;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the executive heads of the other participating organizations for their attention;

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[4] A/57/321.
[5] A/57/327.

14. *Requests* the Unit to report to the General Assembly, in its next annual report, on the implementation of the present resolution.

B

Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports"[6] and the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[7] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Enhancing governance oversight role: structure, working methods and practices on handling oversight reports"[6] and the comments of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon;[7]

2. *Concurs* with the observations and views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraphs 9 to 11 of its report;[8]

3. *Reaffirms* its decision, contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution 50/233 of 7 June 1996, to consider the thematic reports of the Unit under the relevant agenda items.

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[6] See A/57/58.

[7] A/57/58/Add.1.

[8] A/57/434.